KV FOCUS

FALL CLASSES START SEPT. 6
kvcc.edu/register

A Kalamazoo Valley Community College Publication
July 2023

KalamazooVALLEY community college

GET IT DONE AT FALL REGISTRATION EVENTS

Student Skye Druba at the Health Careers Dinner.

Introduction to Cyber Security, Inclusive Practices in Elementary Education and Health Careers Chemistry are a just a few of the new courses available for the Fall 2023 semester at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Classes start Sept. 6 and registration is now open.

Help registering for classes is among the many services available at the Get it Done - Get Ready for the Fall Semester events. These annual events will be held at the Texas Township and the Arcadia Commons campuses and give students the opportunity to complete the steps necessary to begin classes.

"These events have always served as a one-stop option for students, parents and community members interested in attending Kalamazoo Valley," explained Alisha Cederberg, associate dean of student experience. "We want to give people options and make it as convenient as possible to attend." The first event will be held Tuesday, July 25 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Texas Township Campus. On Wednesday, Aug. 9, the event will take place at Anna Whitten Hall on the Arcadia Commons Campus in downtown Kalamazoo from 2 to 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Students who have been accepted to the college for the Fall 2023 semester will receive an invitation to attend. Others interested in attending can visit **kvcc.edu/getitdone** to RSVP.

During Get it Done, attendees can:

- Receive financial aid application assistance
- Complete placement testing
- Meet with an advisor or counselor
- Enroll in classes

For more information, call 269.488.4303 or email **enrollment@kvcc.edu**.

SIGN UP FOR KV ORIENTATION NOW

Students attending college for the first time are required to complete Kalamazoo Valley orientation. At orientation, students will be introduced to the campus and the available services.

Upcoming orientation dates include:
Thursday, July 6 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, July 11 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 13 | 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 20 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Thursday, July 27 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 2 | 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Thursday, Aug. 10 | 1 - 4 p.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 16 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Aug. 17 | 1 - 4 p.m.

All orientations are held at the Texas Township Campus. Call 269.488.4040 to register.

FREE PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE, EARN $550

Kalamazoo Valley Community College invites graduating high school seniors and adult learners to a FREE three-week summer program called the Valley Advantage. Students who attend can earn up to $550 for participating.

Valley Advantage will focus on what is needed to start college in the fall and is designed to help students build confidence and navigate college. The state-funded program is intended to counteract learning loss among recent high school graduates who experienced interruptions to in-person learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A high school diploma or GED is the only requirement.

"Kalamazoo Valley is focused on student success," said Paige Eagan, Ph.D., provost and vice president for instruction and student services. "This is a great opportunity for students interested in sharpening their skills – both inside and outside of the classroom – before beginning classes in the fall."

During this three-week program, students will:

- Boost their skills in English and mathematics
- Explore college resources
- Learn valuable life skills and success strategies
- Engage in team-building exercises

The Valley Advantage offers:

- Opportunity to earn up to $550 cash during the program
- Assistance with transportation costs
- Loaner laptop computer
- Classroom supplies
- Free breakfast (a.m. sessions) and lunch (p.m. sessions) each day

There are four sessions available and space is limited. Registration is now open at **www.kvcc.edu/valleyadvantage**.

- Session I: July 10 - July 27
  8 - 11:30 a.m. or 1 - 4:30 p.m.
  Texas Township Campus
- Session II: July 31 - Aug. 17
  8 - 11:30 a.m. or 1 - 4:30 p.m.
  Arcadia Commons Campus.

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VALLEY ADVANTAGE
Learn. Grow. Thrive.

GET THE **VALLEY ADVANTAGE**
FREE PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS OPPORTUNITY
TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE, EARN CASH

KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RANKS NO. 1

According to state education data, the most popular college destination for class of 2022 graduates is the same for every school district in Kalamazoo County. Kalamazoo Valley Community College was the No. 1 choice in the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) service area, according to a recent MI School Data Report.

Nearly 28% of college-bound students from the area picked Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Western Michigan University was second (17%), followed by Michigan State University (9%). Altogether, KRESA students who graduated in 2022 enrolled at 150 different colleges.

"We are gratified that students and their families are continuing to embrace the high-quality educational programs and support services offered by Kalamazoo Valley," said College President L. Marshall Washington, Ph.D. "This top ranking comes as no surprise to us because we work diligently to make sure that the college is a great place where all students can learn, grow, thrive and find success."

Kalamazoo Valley was particularly popular at Comstock Public Schools and Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools. In both districts, 46% of their college-bound graduates picked Valley, the highest percentage of all districts. About 22% of college-bound students from Kalamazoo Public Schools and 29% from Portage Public Schools chose Kalamazoo Valley.

MI School Data is the state of Michigan's official source for pre-K, K-12, postsecondary and workforce data to help residents, educators and policymakers make informed decisions to improve student success.

The site offers multiple levels and views for statewide, intermediate school district, district, school and college-level information. Data are presented in graphs, charts, trend lines and downloadable spreadsheets to support meaningful evaluation and decision-making.

The original report was published on April 19 by Mlive.com.

VALLEYHUB AWARDED $3.2 MILLION GRANT TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Food Innovation Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College was recently awarded $3.2 million in federal funding to provide local food to in-need members of the community. Food will be purchased through the ValleyHUB food hub, building on relationships with more than 30 regional farmers and food makers.

"The grant aims to simultaneously support local growers and makers and reduce hunger, with a focus on reaching socially disadvantaged communities through innovative and supportive food distribution models," explained Rachel Bair, director for sustainable and innovative food systems for Kalamazoo Valley.

Funds have been made available through the federal USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program (LFPA), which will be administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Education. The program's goals are to make local food systems stronger and more equitable, and to reduce food insecurity.

Food purchased under the grant will be distributed to food-insecure households, providing them with fresh, nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods. It will also supplement the college's existing Valley Food Share food program that provides weekly boxes of food to currently enrolled students. The Kalamazoo Valley Food Innovation Center is a food hub, urban farm and educational center working with the community to strengthen the local food system. Staff from Kalamazoo Valley will lead outreach to and purchasing from farms, building on the food hub's work with 30 regional farmers and food producers. Food distribution will be led by Sprout BC and Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, two organizations with deep connections to the community and years of experience addressing food insecurity. Additional partnerships are being established in Berrien and Van Buren counties.

Sprout BC is an organization working to strengthen local food systems, serving Calhoun County and surrounding areas. This grant will enable staff to expand their food box delivery programs to additional sites in Calhoun, Branch and Kalamazoo Counties, as well as add pop-up market events within these communities.

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes provides fresh foods and non-perishables through a network of pantries, home deliveries, school-based programming, mobile food distributions and partner agencies in Kalamazoo County. This grant will enable Loaves & Fishes to increase offerings of fresh food by expanding the scope of its hunger-relief program elements. "We will work with community groups and leaders in order to continue understanding how this project can best serve Southwest Michigan," Bair said.

Kalamazoo Valley is one of eight organizations receiving LFPA funds in the state of Michigan. The college's work will focus on the Southwest Michigan region. Other participating organizations include: the Food Bank Council of Michigan, which will provide locally-produced home-delivered meals in the Upper Peninsula; Eastern Market, which will distribute fresh produce boxes in the Detroit Metro area; and Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, which will provide evaluation services for the grant.

Food purchases and distributions will start in this month and continue until at least October 2024. Food purchases will be made from regional farms through our regular food hub channels. This will mean increased demand for existing suppliers, as well as opportunities for new producers to participate with the hub. Interested suppliers should reach out to **valleyhub@kvcc.edu.**

ValleyHUB's logistics team connects local food producers with local cafeterias, stores and restaurants.

ValleyHUB employees Hristina Petrovska, food systems program coordinator, and Claire Michael, food hub flex tech, packing a Valley Food Share box.

Food needs will be identified by Sprout BC and Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, and other community partners to be announced, working closely with community members and leaders to understand what food is needed when and where. Interested community organizations should also reach out to **valleyhub@kvcc.edu**. More information will be forthcoming on how community members can access this food at **valleyhub.kvcc.edu** and widely communicated through social media and traditional media channels.

ALUMNI+ ART SHOW WINNERS

Winning entries in Kalamazoo Valley's Alumni+ Art Show were announced during the exhibit opening at the Center for New Media on June 2. A total of 28 alumni submitted 58 works for inclusion in the show. Entries were accepted in multiple media, including video, mixed media, sculpture, painting, drawing, carving and photography.

Director's Choice | $500
"Man-Spider," Ben Street
Street has shared his work at every Alumni+ Art show since 2015, making this his ninth show. He has also done large mural projects in Kalamazoo and Knoxville, Tenn. He earned two degrees at Kalamazoo Valley, graphic design in 2011 and illustration in 2012.

Best of Show | $500
"Sharehouse 1," Alex Menzor
Menzor earned a degree in illustration at Kalamazoo Valley in 2021 and this is the self-employed freelance illustrator's first Alumni+ Art Show.

First Place | $400
"Frog on Mushroom," Stephen Maronto
This was Maronto's third year submitting his work, having won Best of Show in 2021 and Second Place in 2022.

Second Place | $300
"Chinese Wood Ducks," Xiaoying Li
Li previously entered work in the 2015 and 2020 Alumni+ Art Shows. She attended Kalamazoo Valley from 2014 to 2018. Li has been a teacher and artist at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts since 2014.

Third Place | $200
"Sunset Flight," Jodi Arnett-Fleckenstein
This was Arnett-Fleckenstein's first Alumni+ Art Show. She attended Kalamazoo Valley from 1988 to 1996. In 2015, she was one of a seven-artist group that conducted a living painting event as part of the March Art Hop.

Honorable Mentions | $100
"Obsidian Spheres," Alex Menzor
"Symbiosis," Matt Brandt
"Winter Mosaic," Tracy Kleinsteker

The July art exhibit at the CNM will feature a multi-media exhibit, "Echo Location," by photographer Colleen Woolpert.

(Top) Best of show winner Alex Menzor and their acrylic on canvas piece "Sharehouse 1." (Bottom) First place winner Stephen Maronto and his clay piece "Frog on Mushroom."

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE Kalamazoo VALLEY Museum KV

FREE SUMMER FUN AT THE KALAMAZOO VALLEY MUSEUM

Looking for free fun for kids during summer break? Enjoy interactive exhibits, hands-on programs, performances and much more at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Visit **kalamazoomuseum.org** for the full "Adventure Awaits" summer lineup.

Wednesdays, June 21 & 28
Innovation Lab | 10 a.m. - Noon | 1 - 4 p.m.
Explore the Earth's surface with guided STEM activities.

Saturdays, July 1 & 29
Rain Garden Tours | 10:30 a.m. | 1:30 p.m.
Short hands-on activity following the tour (weather permitting).

Wednesdays, July 5 & 12
Planetarium | $3 per person
- 1 p.m. - Mysteries of the Great Lakes
- 2 p.m. - Treasures of the Great Lakes

Wednesdays, July 5 & 12
Innovation Lab | 10 a.m. - Noon | 1 - 4 p.m.
Dive into the science of water with guided STEM activities.

Wednesday, July 12
Water, Water Everywhere | 1:15 p.m. | 2:15 p.m.
Hands-on, interactive demonstration of the sources and effects of water runoff.

Wednesday, July 19
Innovation Lab | 10 a.m. - Noon | 1 - 4 p.m.
Launch into space discovery with guided STEM activities.

Wednesday, July 26
Cooking a Comet | 1 p.m. | 1:30 p.m. | 2 p.m. | 2:30 p.m.
Have you ever wondered what is inside a comet? Join KVM staff as they "cook" up a comet of their own.

Innovation Lab | 10 a.m. - Noon | 1 - 4 p.m.
Launch into space discovery with guided STEM activities.

EXHIBITS TO VISIT!

SPLAT! The Buzz About Flyswatters
Through Jan. 7, 2024
Celebrate summer, and the passion of collecting everyday objects, with this unique display from Iza van Riemsdijk's collection of over 3,300 flyswatters.

Explore Your World!
July 18 - Oct. 15
Undertake a quest across land, sea and space to discover the role of mapping and navigation in everyday life in the exciting exhibit "Explore Your World!"

The museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and governed by its Board of Trustees.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Kalamazoo Valley's 2023 Merit Scholarships were recently awarded to 67 high school seniors. The Merit Scholarship is given to top performing Michigan high school scholars and funds are to be used during their first two years at Kalamazoo Valley. This year's class of winners had an average GPA of 3.73 and represent 33 different high schools (including three home-schooled programs) in 13 different counties.

Eligible applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.25 and submit a short essay. The $2,000 scholarship can be used toward educational expenses for two consecutive semesters at $1,000 per semester, and is eligible for renewal for a second year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING WINNERS

Benjamin Arra | Portage Northern High School
Carter Barnes | Portage Central High School
Nicholas Barr | Libertas Academy
Harrison Barton | Vicksburg High School
Hayley Betterly | Parchment High School
Angela Book | Home School
Caden Bowling | Vicksburg Community Schools
Ally Bruce | Plainwell High School
Hailey Brugh | Galesburg-Augusta High School
Lucas Burns | Parchment High School
Samantha Carlson | Gobles High School
Addi Carlton | Parchment High School
Sage Erdos | Portage Northern High School
Caleb Estrada | Grand Ledge High School
Lillian Ferris | Delton Kellogg High School
Landon Fisher | Decatur Jr./Sr. High School
Allyson Fountain | Harper Creek High School
Brayden Glessner | Plainwell High School
Hayden Gough | Portage Northern High School
Skye Hanson | Portage Central High School
Addison Harris | Bronson Jr./Sr. High School
Claudia Herrera | Parchment High School
Gabby High | Lawton High School
Cadence Johnson | Delton Kellogg High School
Stacey Jordan | Portage Northern High School
Jersey Keeslar | Marcellus High School
Abrielle Kennedy | Portage Northern High School
Caley Kerwin | Schoolcraft High School
Rida Khan | Portage Community High School
Maddie Kilian | Heritage Christian Academy
Brynn Kloosterman | Hudsonville High School
Karlie Knisely | Coldwater High School
Isaac Koerner | Kalamazoo Christian High School
Joseph Kramer | Heritage Christian Academy
Hope Krichke | Kalamazoo Christian High School
Alec Krogel | Gull Lake High School
Jacob Lee | Portage Northern High School
Alexander Lennon | Comstock High School
Jj Manion | Kalamazoo Christian High School
Kamryn Maxwell | Lawton High School
Kayla Miller | Portage Northern High School
Christina Morocho-Salinas | Portage Northern High School
Claire Mosebach | Parchment High School
Elizabeth Mullins | Loy Norrix High School
Candis Myers | Fowler High School
Anna Oppedisano | Vicksburg High School
Lia Palmer | Three Rivers High School
Alanna Pierce | Gobles High School
Eryn Poel | Plainwell High School
Lily Puckett | Vicksburg High School
Braylon Quarry | Mattawan High School
Dulce Ramos–Martinez | Gobles High School
Ethan Raseman | Otsego High School
Madeleine Rytlewski | Gull Lake High School
Camille Sheppard | Portage Central High School
Ashley Solis | Hartford High School
Nathan St. Peter | Portage Northern High School
Bryce Stewart | Constantine High School
Emily Sturgis | Portage Central High School
Kami Sundberg | Home School
Alaina Swetay | Portage Central High School
Alanna Thomas | Portage Central High School
Anthony Valade | Portage Northern High School
Hannah Vore | Paw Paw High School
Haley Wharton | Vicksburg Pathways
Francesa Willis | Kalamazoo Christian High School
Laynie Zabonick | Three Rivers High School

FALL 2023 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

The Community and Continuing Education Department non-credit classes emphasize personal enrichment, professional development and community outreach. All classes are taught at the Food Innovation Center, 224 E. Crosstown Parkway in downtown Kalamazoo unless otherwise noted. Additional classes may be added throughout the summer and fall. Visit **kvcc.edu/community** for full listing and to register.

Students in Beekeeping 102 at the Food Innovation Center.

BEEKEEPING 103

Tuesdays, Aug. 15 – Sept. 12
6 - 8 p.m. | $140
This last section of the three-part series in beekeeping will look at the life of a honeybee colony as it continues to get ready for winter. Overwintering practices, preparation and options will be discussed, along with fall and winter duties of the beekeeper.

BAT WALK

Wednesday, Aug.16 | 8 - 9 p.m. | $15
Gather at Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's Bow in the Clouds preserve to learn more about Michigan's native and migratory bat species and their critical role in a functioning ecosystem.

SEED STEWARDSHIP - HAND POLLINATION AND WET SEED PROCESSING

Saturday, Aug. 26 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | $30
Learn hands-on techniques for saving seeds from wet-seeded crops such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and melons. The class will cover selecting seeds that are especially well-adapted for growing conditions, isolation strategies and hand-pollination techniques for cross-pollinating plants and cleaning and more.

VISIBLE MENDING: MAKING YOUR OLD CLOTHES A SLOW FASHION STATEMENT

Wednesdays, Aug. 30 – Oct. 4 | 6 - 8 p.m. | $140
Transform your holey clothing into a work of slow fashion art. Repairing and refurbishing clothing keeps it out of the waste stream, saves money and offers a creative outlet. Minimal sewing skills are required but some familiarity is useful.

GARDENING THE COOL SEASON

Thursdays, Sept. 7 and 14 | 6 - 8 p.m. | $40
Food gardeners can plant late summer into fall for harvests through the cold months. Learn about the cold-hardy crops that can provide opportunities and strategies for satisfying harvests on a mild day in winter.

AT HOME HERBALISM

Thursdays, Oct. 12 – Nov. 16 | 6 - 8 p.m. | $180
Herbs are a traditional source of nutrition and healing. Students will explore the impact of ancestral plants, sources of materia medica, ethical and sustainable foraging techniques, as well as recipes for building a home apothecary.

SEED STEWARDSHIP - HARVESTING, CLEANING AND STORING STAPLE CROPS FOR FOOD AND SEED

Saturday, Oct. 14 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | $30
In this class at the Food Innovation Center seed garden, explore seed crops like beans and grains that can be grown in this region as protein-rich staple foods. Build knowledge and skill in growing, harvesting, cleaning and storing seeds from a variety of dry beans and grains such as rice, amaranth, millet, barley, rye and wheat.

COLLEGE HOSTS CULINARY MEDICINE SUMMIT

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is hosting the American Culinary Federation Chefs Culinary Medicine Summit on Aug. 12. The summit will explore the converging worlds of food and health, with internationally renowned experts in food and medicine leading sessions throughout the day.

Increasingly, science is supporting the idea that the standard American diet is the primary contributor to the worldwide pandemic of diet and lifestyle-related disability and disease. Participants will gain insight that will encourage improvements to menus and the sustainability of food systems by attending culinary demonstrations, expert panels and in-depth discussions.

Thought-leaders will present on the latest culinary medicine data and best practices as they highlight how to translate this information into actionable strategies compatible for all kitchens from fine dining to institutional cuisine.

Summit Coordinator Lizzie Luchsinger shared: "At this summit, culinary and health professionals will learn and engage together, acknowledging the opportunity these professions have to shape positive outcomes for the communities we serve." The event seeks to inspire those professionals and influence an improved view on dining and food systems across the country. The schedule runs from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building in downtown Kalamazoo.

Register at **bit.ly/ACF CulinaryMedicineSummit** or scan the QR code to join us for this extraordinary educational experience.

CORPORATE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming corporate training and professional development classes include:

Aug. 11 or Sept. 8 | Enhancing Cultural Diversity | $140
Aug. 16 | MiOSHA Part 21 Powered Industrial Trucks: What Every Trainer and Operator Must Know | $130
Aug. 25 | Managing from The Middle | $210
Aug. 25 or Sept. 22 | Nail Your Next Interview | $80
Aug. 28 | HR Certification Exam Preparation | $1,340

See the full schedule and register at **kvcc.edu/programs/corporate_training/**. For more information, contact Maddie Isch at misch0311@kvcc.edu or call 269.353.1253.

CULINARY STUDENT JAI SMITH
PREPARES HEALTHY MEALS FOR CAMPERS

Jai Smith at the Sisters in Business Banquet

Jai Smith started taking law enforcement classes at Kalamazoo Valley before the culinary school was opened, but wasn't as passionate about police work as she was about food. After taking a break from college, she returned to take culinary arts classes. She earned a culinary arts and sustainable food systems certificate and will graduate in December 2023 with an associate of arts degree in culinary arts and sustainable food systems.

The mother of three opened Black Truffle Catering and Events in 2018 and is now the culinary director at Pretty Lake Vacation Camp in Mattawan.

"This is the most rewarding position I've been in," she said of Pretty Lake, where she's worked full time since July 2021.

"The campus is amazing and the mission is in alignment with my life and my goals. I'm happy to be here finally." She explained that she placed first in the Stone Soup cooking competition for the directorship in 2018 but didn't feel qualified to take on the role at that time. She later applied for the position, but wasn't offered the job until three years later.

From June through August, Smith's job is to provide three meals and two snacks per day for 100 campers and 30 to 40 staff members. She also supervises five to six employees and is busy from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

"I love walking into the dining room and watching kids enjoying their meals," she said. Every meal includes fresh fruit and vegetables and campers may request as many servings as they want. During her first year on the job, one camper kept coming back for more cantaloupe and told her that he hadn't had the melon in years.

"Our conversation about the lack of fresh options available to him at home encouraged me," Smith said. "The thought of something as simple as cantaloupe being considered a treat made me realize how important my role was in this position. I was grateful that I could give him something healthy and nutritious that he hadn't enjoyed in over three years. Using my gift to bring joy to others through the art of food is what keeps me striving for excellence."

The culinary instructors at Kalamazoo Valley also helped her establish high standards, she said. "Kalamazoo Valley Community College definitely hit the mark with all staff in the culinary department," Smith said. "Three people – Joel Boone, Stephanie Hughes and Cory Barrett – were the most supportive. Each one pushed me to be the best that I can be." Boone encouraged her to open her catering business and Hughes was a wealth of information and helped Smith to develop her business plan.

Barrett, winner of Food Network's Spring Baking Championship in 2019, recently moved to Iowa to open his own restaurant, Barrett's Quality Eats. "It was easy to admire him," Smith said. "He's amazing at what he does and he always made sure his students were his priority. It meant a lot to me to have access to someone like him." Smith feels fortunate to have had such a positive culinary training experience. "It can be hard to access culinary resources because the field is so competitive," she said. "That's why the instructors are so valuable."

When not at Pretty Lake, she continues to operate her catering business. Smith's specialty is small bites and desserts. "I eat with my eyes first," she said. "I take presentation very seriously." She's understandably proud of what she's accomplished and encourages her children to figure out where their passions lie. "If it's something you enjoy, no matter what anyone else says, do it. I didn't choose to do this for the money. I do it for me."

She offers this advice to her 17-year-old son and others who are making career decisions: "Make a decision for your life based on what you like. Think of school as a bridge that connects you to the life you want for yourself."

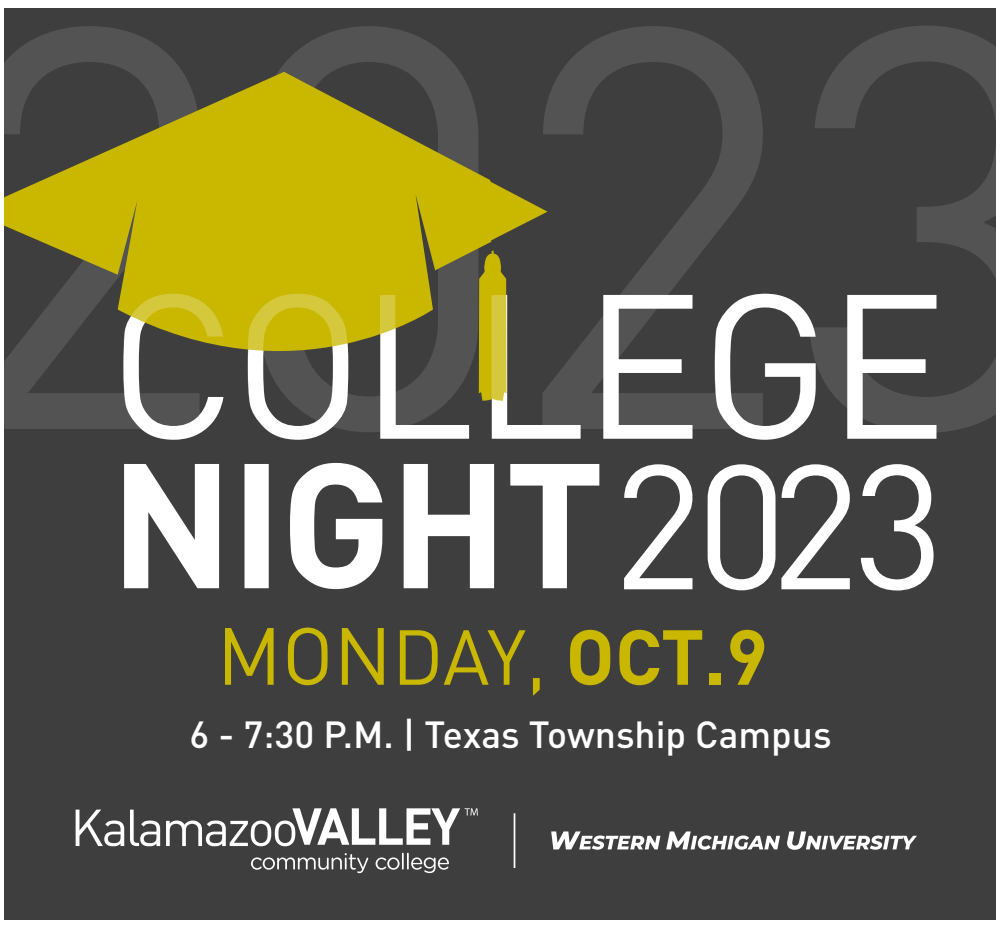
Chocolate tart made by Jai Smith

2023 OPPORTUNITIES FOR EDUCATION
SLATED FOR SEPT. 28

The 2023 Opportunities for Education Scholarship Fundraising Event will take place on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Food Innovation Center at Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 224 E. Crosstown Parkway in downtown Kalamazoo.

The event will feature some of the region's most popular restaurants, including student and faculty chefs from the college's culinary and brewing programs. Guests will enjoy a walk-around tasting under a big tent where they can sample signature dishes. Tours among the vegetables, flowers and herbs growing in the Food Innovation Center's greenhouse will be available along with beer, wine and other beverages.

This student scholarship fundraising event helps the KVCC Foundation provide scholarships for students with financial needs at Kalamazoo Valley. Support of the event helps to make a difference in the lives of students. For ticketing and sponsorship details, visit **www.kvcc.edu/foundation**.



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